

Remarks

Claims 1-69 were previously pending in the application. With this response, new claims 70-73 have been added in view of the Applicant's election of species (discussed below) and claims 13-36 and 47-69 (invention Group II) have been cancelled as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested as it introduces no new matter and is supported by Applicant's specification and claims as originally filed. Upon entry of the current amendment, claims 1-12, 37-46, and 70-73 will be pending and in front of the Examiner for consideration.

Elections/Restrictions

The Office has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372, stating that the application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1:

- **Group I: Claims 1-12 and 37-46, drawn to methods of treating a disease associated with excess transport of hyaluronan across a lipid bilayer.**
- **Group II: Claims 13-36 and 47-69, drawn to methods for screening a compound.**

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, and asserted to be fully responsive to the requirement, Applicant provisionally elects the invention of Group I without traverse. Claims 1-12, 37-46, and newly added claims 70-73 read on the elected invention.

The Office has also asserted that the application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention, and these species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The Office has required species election from Group I as follows:

- a. A specific ABC-transporter subfamily;
- b. A specific inhibitor of the elected ABC-transporter subfamily; and
- c. A specific disease subject to treatment.

Asserted to be fully responsive to the requirement, Applicant provisionally elects the following species: a. the MRP sub-family; b. probenecid as the MRP sub-family

inhibitor; and c. osteoarthritis as the specific disease subject to treatment. Applicant asserts that claims 1-12, 37-44, and newly added claims 70-73 read on the elected invention.

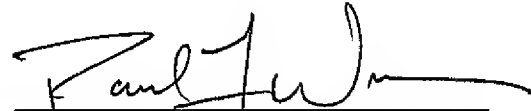
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that this communication is fully responsive to the outstanding Election/Restriction Requirement. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in the event that such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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